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PIT Summer School_12

Agronomic, forestry and pasture activities and biodiversity conservation: problems and strategies for monitoring and management

From 1-8 July 2012

Alpi Marittime Natural Park_Valdieri (CN), Italy

In view of the great success of the PIT Summer School 2011, the Alpi Marittime Natural Park in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara is proud to announce the 2012 Summer School in taxonomy. The call to the PIT Summer School 2012 is officially open and will take place in the inspirational settings of the Alpi.

Habitat alterations due to many unsustainable land management systems, ecosystems degradation, climate change, pollution and the presence of invasive and alien species are the very well known key elements of biodiversity loss. Such loss can strongly affect ecosystem stability and can jeopardise its functioning and services.

The PIT Summer School 2012 intends to approach problems such as land use in agriculture, forestry and farming, analysing the existing monitoring techniques and the conservation status of species and ecosystems which are subject to such human activities.

Furthermore, the aim of the Summer School is to evaluate the sustainability of agronomic, forestry and farming techniques and policy on a global level, suggesting possible improvements and the application of existing strategies which can sustain biodiversity and protect landscape and ecological systems in close relation to economical issues.

Thanks to experienced lecturers of national and international renown, participants will experience, through an intensive one-week lab and fieldwork approach, the interactions of human activities with ecosystems, learning monitoring strategies, how to apply environmental quality indicators, how to deal with invasive species and land management in relation to economical and productive issues.

The PIT Summer School provides a unique opportunity for participants to meet renown taxonomists and ecologists and experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of field work and to face up-to-date land management issues.

In collaboration with



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Contents

- Taxonomy and ecological research aimed at improving protection and management of fauna: from zoology to environmental policy;
- From biodiversity indexes to management strategies of agronomy, forestry and farming activities;
- Conservation of forest biodiversity and its strong relation with dead wood and moribund trees;
- Alien and invasive pests: identification and management. (i.e. International legislation, standard protocols for monitoring, eradication and pest control);
- Identification of invertebrates particularly useful for the assessment of ecosystem functionality: Coleoptera Carabidae, Hymenoptera Symphyta, saproxylic insects, diurnal Lepidoptera, Odonata, Araneae and other arthropods (a theoretical and practical approach to sampling techniques and identification in the lab);
- Occupancy models applied to the elaboration of survey and monitoring protocols: from data collection to their elaboration and interpretation.

Among the lecturers we mention

- Dr. Gianni Allegro, Agricultural Research Council (CRA), Asti, Italy
 Dr. Carla Corazza, Museum of Natural History of Ferrara, Italy
 Dr. Serena Corezzola, freelance ecologist and collaborator of National Forest Service, Verona, Italy
 Dr. Chiara Ferracini, University of Turin, Italy
 Dr. Marco Isaia, University of Turin, Italy
 Dr. Nicklas Jansson, Linköping University, Sweden
 Dr. Alessio Mortelliti, University "La Sapienza" of Rome, Italy
 Dr. Fausto Pesarini, Museum of Natural History of Ferrara, Italy

The PIT Summer School 2012 is the third highest level training experience organised within the framework of the Transboundary Integrated Action Plan (Transboundary Cooperation Programme Italy-France Alcotra 2007-2013) in which the Alpi Marittime Natural Park and the Mercantour National Park are involved. The two Parks are developing, together with several other activities, an "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory", an ambitious project aimed at improving the knowledge on the biodiversity of the Alpi Marittime and Mercantour territory, in order to better protect and manage the species and the ecosystems.

Through the PIT Summer School 2012, the Alpi Marittime Natural Park and the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara continue their collaboration in the organisation of taxonomy courses for university students, this year also thanks to the contribution of DEST (Distributed European School of Taxonomy), an institution established in 2008 within the framework of EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy) and aimed at improving professional taxonomy training opportunities (i.e. EDIT Summer Schools).

The PIT Summer School is open to a maximum of 16 participants:

- 13 places are dedicated to students in biological and natural sciences disciplines (also MSc and PhD students) of any nationality;
 - 3 places are dedicated to professionals working in the field of natural sciences (monitoring, habitat conservation and protected areas management).
- All classes and fieldwork exercises will be taught in English.

The course will last 8 days (56 hours). At the end of the course participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

The participation in the PIT Summer School for all university students is free (costs of accommodation in a hotel close to the Park area, transportation related to the Summer School activities and registration fee are covered by the Integrated Transboundary action Plan (PIT), EU Commission).

Registration

The **deadline for application is April 27th 2012**. For participation procedure and application form please visit the following web pages:

<http://www.parcoalpipimarittime.it/man.php>

<http://storianaturale.comune.fe.it/index.phtml?id=502>

<http://www.africamuseum.be/about-us/news>

The results of the **selection of participants** will be communicated before **May 11th 2012**.

Info

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